

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 4 and AMEND claim 1 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An optical collimator structure₁ comprising:
an optical fiber assembly of a plurality of unitary single-mode optical fibers each having a core₁ and;

a ferrule₁ ~~for supporting the optical fiber assembly~~ being inserted partially therein into the ferrule and bonded thereto, and supported thereby;

~~wherein the core has~~ having a graded index optical fiber bonded to ~~the an~~ an end face of the core thereof;

the graded index optical fiber₁ along with the end portion of the core to which the graded index optical fiber is bonded₁ being inserted ~~in~~ into a hole of a capillary provided at an end of the ferrule, the capillary having a conically shaped end face, at which an end face of the graded index optical fiber is located; and

the end face of the graded index optical fiber₁ for emitting or receiving a beam of light, having a tilt angle relative to ~~the an~~ an optical axis of the optical collimator structure.

2. (ORIGINAL) The optical collimator structure of claim 1, wherein the end face of the graded index optical fiber has a tilt angle relative to the optical axis of the optical collimator structure.

3. (ORIGINAL) The optical collimator structure of claim 2, wherein the tilt angle of the end face of the graded index optical fiber is the same as the tilt angle of the capillary relative to the optical axis of the optical collimator structure.

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (ORIGINAL) The optical collimator structure of claim 1, wherein the capillary has an end with facets, at one of which facets the end face of the graded index optical fiber is located.

6. (ORIGINAL) The optical collimator structure of claim 1, wherein the end faces of the respective graded index optical fibers are arranged symmetrically relative to the center of the capillary.

7. (ORIGINAL) The optical collimator structure of claim 1, wherein the graded index optical fiber is bonded to the end of the core by fusion bonding.

8. (ORIGINAL) The optical collimator structure of claim 1, which is used in combination with an optical component.

9. (ORIGINAL) The optical collimator structure of claim 8, wherein the optical component is a mirror, a filter, or a branching filter.

10. (ORIGINAL) The optical collimator structure of claim 1, which emits a beam of light and receives a totally or partially reflected beam of light.

11. (ORIGINAL) The optical collimator structure of claim 1, which only emits a beam of light.

12. (ORIGINAL) The optical collimator structure of claim 1, which only receives a beam of light.